18. Sanitation and Conservancy—Cranganur—Rs. 3,771.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I beg to move for an allotment of Rs. 3,771 under Sanitation and Conservancy—Cranganur.

The demand was put and carried.

3. Village Panchayats—Rs. 2,62,434.

*Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* I move for an allotment of Rs. 2,62,434 for Village Panchayats.

Sir, I want to say a few words of a general nature before I ask the House to grant this allotment. During the general discussion of the budget there has been criticism in my not having furnished the details with regard to the village reconstruction. There are one or two cut motions also with regard to this. I want the House to understand any way the difficulty of preparing an exhaustive budget with regard to village reconstruction. At the same time I want to convey to the House what we mean or what I mean by village reconstruction. The meaning of the word village reconstruction seems to be different for different people. The idea of my friend, who is going to move a total cut, is to put up a new road for the amount granted to that village. In another Panchayat, the idea was to dig up a tank for the amount given. In this way different people in different localities and different Panchayats have different conceptions of village reconstruction. As I have observed on a previous occasion this is a subject new to us. We must be very careful in undertaking any method being new. We must be very cautious and as I do not pretend to be an expert in village reconstruction, I may assure this House that in this matter I have been mainly guided by those who are considered to be experts in village reconstruction, for example, the Rural Development Officer and the other various Heads of Departments. It is true that I too have participated in their discussion and contributed my share, but I was very careful all along not to over-ride their opinion in these matters and as a result of constant discussion we have formulated certain principles and certain schemes for the consideration in this House under the general terms. I trust when the House hears the whole thing they will be in a position to understand that after all we have grasped the fundamentals of village reconstruction though there may be difference of opinion with regard to the details and items. I shall, with the leave of the House, just go over these few lines so that the House may understand what at least I understood, by the village reconstruction.

It is an important principle of rural reconstruction work that it should be done by the people and for the people. With this principle in mind the departmental heads have already visited the six

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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Panchayats and have held conferences with the Panchayatdars and others specially invited from the villages. This has created real interest among the people in rural development and they have begun to study the problems and prepare plans with earnestness. The needs of a village are best known to the villagers themselves and so they have been asked to prepare a preliminary scheme. In every Panchayat a special committee has been formed who will be submitting their proposals by the 15th of Karkadagam which will again be considered by the heads of departments after which a final report will be submitted to the Government.

It will not be proper to prepare one uniform scheme for all Panchayats because needs differ in different villages. The following scheme may be accepted as a basis:

1. A Rural Development Association.

In every Panchayat a Rural Development Association may be organised on a co-operative basis, the membership fee being a nominal amount to enable all people residing in that Panchayat area to become members. An elected or appointed committee with all Panchayatdars may manage the affairs of the Association and utilise the special allotment. The Departmental Heads will supervise the work and see that the amount is properly utilised.

2. A Rural Centre.

The Head Quarters of this Association should be a Rural Centre place on the model of Cherpu Centre, not much smaller. The land and the buildings should as far as possible be contributions from the people. Many kinds of rural development activities may be conducted and demonstrated at the Centre, including a Village Library and Reading Room, Night School for adults and games for the young.

3. Village Guides.

A full time worker—a village Guide—may be appointed to be in charge of the Centre and be given an allowance or pay. He should undergo training at the Cochin Rural Development Centre, Cherpu. A special course for such workers will be held in the month of Chingam 1115. It is advisable that the Panchayatdars from these selected Panchayats also undergo a short course of training—say for about 10 days to get an idea about the principles and methods of Rural Development Work.

4. Agricultural Needs.

A large majority of the people in these villages are agriculturists and a substantial portion of the amount should be set apart for meeting their needs. Paddy seeds would be distributed, and tool

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implements and manures be made available to them. Vegetable gardens and fruit trees should be popularised. Seeds and seedlings should be distributed. Compost manure may be prepared in every home. Other needs as they arise may be attended to.

5. Industries.

Development of cottage industries should be an important item. The existing local cottage industries should be first attended to. Such cottage industries are many, such as weaving, mat and basket making, bell-metal work, carpentry and carving, pottery, smithy, lemon grass oil, jaggery making, oil pressing, coir, fishing etc., and other small industries like soap making, bee keeping, spinning, hand pounding of rice, paper making, poultry keeping etc. The producers should be helped with equipments and raw materials and taught to make better products of standardised quality.

6. Marketing.

Arrangements should be made for marketing the products to the best advantage of the producers. This should be done on a co-operative basis.

7. Cattle and Goats.

Seed bulls may be maintained at the Centre and cows and goats of good breed may be distributed to selected people according to a definite scheme. Growing of fodder grasses should be popularised. Arrangements should be made for marketing milk.

8. Health and Sanitation.

Bore-hole latrines, clean up campaigns, cleaning up of wells and tanks etc., may be included under this item.

9. Games and Recreation.

Play grounds for the young should be started in every village. Gramaphone could be used for night entertainments for the villagers.

10. Depressed Classes.

Special attention should be given in all matters regarding the uplift of the depressed classes within the Panchayats. A great deal can be done to make their condition better.

11. Educational Activities.

Village Libraries and Reading rooms, night schools for adults, village demonstrations, exhibitions, lantern lectures and other activities of educational value may be conducted.

12. It is already proposed to print a book on Rural Reconstruction which will be distributed to all the Panchayats and others who are interested in this work.

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13. General.

In the matter of rural development one cannot make a complete list of activities. As we go on working out programmes new problems may arise which require new solutions. It should be left to the Association and its workers to discover methods of meeting such problems from time to time.

On the whole it is impossible to place definite plans and programmes to carry on our rural reconstruction. In the first place conditions differ in different villages. Self-help should be the foundation of building up the structure of rural reconstruction. The attempt is mainly directed towards the realization of this object. The amount allotted for Rural Development work in each Panchayat will be placed in the hands of a committee consisting of the members of the Panchayat, 4 heads of Departments, the member representing the constituency in which the Panchayat is situated with power to add to their number. The amount for rural development work will be placed in the hands of this Committee and necessary plans will be prepared by them to work out the above scheme under the guidance and advice of the heads of departments.

Now Sir, I will answer the cut motions as they arise. I have nothing more to add at present.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I would like to know whether the Committee to be constituted will be an autonomous body without interference from outside ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That is the idea. In any case the committee is constituted of the members of the Panchayat, 4 Heads of Departments, the Member representing the constituency in which the Panchayat is situated. There are only 4 Heads of Departments to give advice and guidance. Instead of interfering, the trouble will be, seeking more and more help. There is not the least idea of interfering. There is a scheme prepared and if you want their advice and guidance it will be placed at your disposal.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Is there any compulsion that the committee should accept the scheme as it is? I want to know whether it is necessary that the committee should carry on poultry farming and bee-keeping.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That depends upon the varying conditions of the locality. Suppose the committee decides to dig a tank. That sort of thing would not be allowed. Because we do not think that it is village reconstruction. That is not the idea. Suppose you want to omit certain items.

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You say we do not want bee-keeping and you want to add something else. In one Panchayat mat-making may be profitable., but in another coir making may be profitable. Each Panchayat may select its own industry.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ഒ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: പഞ്ചായത്തിനു പുറമേ വേറെ ബോഡി എന്തിനാണ് ഇവക്കു നടത്തുവാൻ?

Dr .A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* All the members of the Panchayat including the Legislative Council Member of that constituency constitute the committee. They are given the power to co-opt. Suppose there is a local man who is clever in this line. We have made a provision to enable the Committee to ask him also to join. We are not going to nominate. The Panchayats themselves may co-opt any one. That is an optional clause.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know, Sir, whether the village officers were preparing a sort of statistics about the several occupations of the village population, their special needs and irrigational conditions etc. ? I understand such a statistics was being prepared.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* They are preparing.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulm):* Will it be published in the form of a book ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* We are collecting all this information. The collection is not yet over. As soon as it is collected, it is our intention to print it in book form and distribute it.

Cut Motion No. 12.

To abolish the system of nomination to Panchayats.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters): To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,427 Establishment-clerks by Re. 1. (The need for abolishing the system of nomination securing adequate representation of minorities by reservation of seats of joint electorates).* സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ മൂന്നാണ്. ഒന്നാമതു് പഞ്ചായത്തിലേക്കു് ആളുകളെ നോമിനേറു ചെയ്യുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായത്തിലുള്ള പരാതികൾ മന്ത്രിയുടെ തലയിൽ വരാതിരിക്കണം. അതെ നോമിനേറുചെയ്താലും അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആക്ഷേപം ഉണ്ടാകാതിരിക്കയില്ല. ഈ നിയമസഭയിൽത്തന്നെ ഞാൻമുമ്പു് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചപോലെ ഒരാളെ നോമിനേറുചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ അയാളുടെ സന്തോഷം കിട്ടും; പക്ഷെ വേറെ നൂറു ആളുകളുടെ ആക്ഷേപം കേൾക്കേണ്ടിവരും, ഞാൻ ഇതു കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു് വാസ്തവത്തിൽ മന്ത്രിയുടെ ഉണത്തിനുവേണ്ടിയാണ്. കുറച്ചു ദിവസംമുമ്പു് ഈ നോമിനേഷൻ കാര്യത്തിൽ മന്ത്രിയുടെ പേരിൽ ഒരവിശ്വാസപ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചപ്പോൾ.....

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